# Norma Jean Hurst

*January 1, 1929 ~ August 27, 2016*

Norma Hurst passed away on August 27, 2016 of causes incident to age. It is comforting to consider the delightful reunions she is now enjoying.

Norma was born on January 1, 1929 to Ella Callista (Earl) Carruth and Scott Heber Carruth in Salt Lake City. Her father died when Norma was only eight, leaving her and her two younger sisters to be reared by their tenacious school-teacher mother in southern Nevada. She graduated with high honors from Las Vegas High School and attended the University of Nevada Reno where she met the dashing Clayton Riley Hurst. At UNR she affiliated with Delta Delta Delta sorority and was elected homecoming queen. Clayton forever after referred to her as Norma Jean the Queen, along with other variations. Norma continued her university studies while Clayton served for two-and-a-half years in the Swiss-Austrian Mission. They were married in the St. George temple on November 23, 1951. After graduation from UNR, Norma taught elementary school and supported Clayton while he finished his degree. The young couple lived in Reno, Houston, New Orleans and Denver before eventually settling in Southern California, where they brought up their four children: Scott, Kathryn, Barbara and Susan. Norma engendered in them a love of home, learning, scholarship, travel, testimony and service.

There was not a job in the church Norma couldn't do: teacher, Primary President, Young Women's President, Relief Society President, Stake Relief Society President -- she did it all with amazing persistence and faithful dedication. From 1983 to 1986 Norma and Clayton presided over the Switzerland Z√ºrich Mission. Although Norma was reluctant to leave her grandkids, this was the experience of a lifetime and she embraced it with gusto , traveling, teaching and loving their missionaries. A true home away from home, Pilatusstrasse 11 was a haven to many.

After retirement, Clayton and Norma left their beloved home in La Crescenta to move to Salt Lake City, where they built a new home near Ensign Peak and enjoyed being close to family and expanding their circle of friends.

Norma loved her family, immediate and distant. She was proud of her pioneer heritage and, in that spirit, encouraged and supported her children in the pursuit of their dreams. Her stamina at homemaking was legendary, surpassed only by her ability to shop until all those around her had dropped. She loved a good sale. She was one of the world's great hostesses and had a gift for bringing people together. Wherever home was, the door was open to anyone who needed a place to stay for a night, a week, or even a year. Strangers became friends and friends became family.

Preceded in death by her husband Clayton and daughter Kathryn, Norma is survived by her dear sisters and brothers-in-law, Barbara and Vern Albright, Carole and Murton Bowman; children Scott and Holly Hurst, Barbara Hurst, Susan and Steven Rhondeau; 16 grandchildren, and 23 great-grandchildren.

A viewing will be held Thursday September 1st from 6:30 , 8:30 p.m. at Larkin Mortuary, 260 E. South Temple. On Friday, September 2nd, there will be a graveside service at the Salt Lake City Cemetery at 3:30 p.m. (enter at 4th Ave. and N Street or main upper gate at 11th Ave. and 920 East). In honor of Norma, hostess extraordinaire, family and friends are invited to enjoy dinner and share memories that evening at the Rhondeau home. Contact susan.rhondeau@gmail.com for details.

Donations in lieu of flowers may be made to the D.U.P. or the LDS Museum of Church History and Art, organizations that were meaningful to Norma. The family thanks the staff at The Wellington for their years of kind service and Holli Bezzant at Tangles Salon, who did Norma's hair every Friday for even longer.